

# **God's Giving Paradigm Pt. 3**

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Why did God invent giving?

We are made in God's likeness and image and giving is the principle expression of the nature of God. Giving is for our benefit—not God's. It's impossible to live in the image of God without a fully surrendered life toward God and people or without a fully surrendered heart toward giving and generosity.

"The problem with the church is that most of them are acting like consumers, when they are all called to be distributors." - Fred Smith, Founder of FedEx

There are three types of financial stewardship:

1. Tithing - You bring it first because it belongs to God.

**Leviticus 27:30** - A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

2. Offerings (Kingdom Builders) – You give these on purpose.

3. Giving to the poor (Kingdom Builders) – You give these in secret.

A Kingdom Building giver reaps a great harvest.

**Proverbs 11:24-25** - It is possible to give away and become richer! It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything. Yes, the liberal or giving man shall be rich! By watering others, he waters himself.

**II Corinthians 9:5-11** - This is my reason then for urging the brothers to visit you before I come myself, so that they can get your promised gift ready in good time. So that your gift may be a real act of grace and spontaneity and not money that has been squeezed out of you or given under pressure. Remember this: He who sows or gives sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows or gives generously and that blessing may come to someone, will also reap generously and with blessings or Scanty sowing or giving, scanty harvest: Plentiful sowing or giving, plentiful harvest. Let everyone give as his heart tells him. Not grudgingly or of necessity or under compulsion; for God loves, takes pleasure in a cheerful, joyous, prompt-to-do-it giver, whose heart is in his giving. And God is able to give you an overflowing measure of all good gifts, that all your wants of every kind may be supplied at all times and you may give of your abundance

to every good work. The scriptures say of such a man, "He scatters his gifts to the poor, his deeds of charity go on forever." And God, who supplies seed (money) for the sower (giver) and bread for eating, will supply you with seed (money) and multiply it, and will increase the crop of your charities or giving. The more you are enriched by God, the more scope there will be for your generous giving. Your gifts administered through us, will cause many to thank God.

Our giving, not our needs, determine the measure of our blessings.

**II Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)** - But just as you excel or improve in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel or improve in this grace of giving.

You are Jesus' harvest.

**John 12:24-26** - I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.